



**NEWS RELEASE**  
**For immediate release**

### **Gatineau Loppet Recognition Programs**

**Gatineau, February 16, 2013** – For its 35<sup>th</sup> anniversary, the Gatineau Loppet is pleased to unveil two new recognition programs. The induction ceremony will take place at the traditional Worldloppet Cocktail, which begins at 4 p.m. on Saturday, February 16.

#### **LEGEND'S PATH**

The Gatineau Loppet Legend's Path is the name that the organization uses to designate its own hall of fame. With its Legend's Path, the Gatineau Loppet wants to honour the individuals and organizations that have marked the event or have helped spread the word about the Gatineau Loppet or cross-country skiing in general.

An individual or organization would be inducted for their contribution as a participant through their volunteer work, through sponsorships/donations, as ambassadors or any other way deemed acceptable by the Recognition and Retention Committee.

Our first legend in the history of the Gatineau Loppet has made it to the podium six time, including twice to the top rung, for long distance races in the event. In 2010, she also won the middle distance 27 km freestyle. She finished 16 times among the top 5 in the women's races, and took part in 25 Gatineau Loppet races, including the current edition.

We are delighted to introduce **Sheila Kealey**, our 1<sup>st</sup> Gatineau Loppet Legend. Ms. Kealey is an avid sportswoman, with a particular fondness for endurance sports, and a promoter of healthy living. She is grateful for the support of the XC Ottawa racing team and Rossignol, which enable her to do the NorAm Canada Cup races. She is particularly keen on the longer races, such as those of the Gatineau Loppet. She also runs, bikes, and is a triathlete who eagerly promotes physical activity among young people as a coach with the Nakkertok Cross-Country Ski Club.

#### **VETERANS CLUB**

The purpose of the Veterans Club is to recognize the participants who have taken part in at least 35 middle or long distance Gatineau Loppet races. If anyone among us can tell the story of the Gatineau Loppet, it would be them. They are part of it, shaped it and have often played the key role in it, which is that of participant.

By conferring on them the title of VETERAN, the Gatineau Loppet wants to thank them for setting the example with their tenacity, and for their loyalty to the event.

Our six Veterans are the following:

**Robert FALTUS** (Pierrefonds QC)

35 Gatineau Loppet races

**Ronald FALTUS** (Pierrefonds QC)

36 Gatineau Loppet races

**Chantal Métivier** (Gatineau QC)

39 Gatineau Loppet races

**Ross Mc LEAN** (Perth ON)

42 Gatineau Loppet races

**Raymond Young** (Gatineau QC)

44 Gatineau Loppet races

**David Kennedy** (Ottawa ON)

45 Gatineau Loppet races

For additional information, consult the Gatineau Loppet Web site at [www.gatineauloppet.com](http://www.gatineauloppet.com).

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*The Gatineau Loppet is run by the Simoncic Group, an agency that specializes in event management, and that also manages Les Rendez-vous de la Francophonie, the Festival franco-ontarien, the Franco-Fête de Toronto, the St-Albert Curd Festival and the World Scout Moot Canada 2013.*

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